



MEETING SUMMARY

Advisory Committee to the Texas Cancer Registry (TCR)

Thursday, March 31, 2016, 11:30 AM – 2:30 PM

[DSHS Central Campus](#), Room G-107

1100 W. 49th St., Austin, TX 78756

Members/Designees/Guests Present:

Michael E. Scheurer, Ph.D., M.P.H., Baylor College of Medicine, **ACTCR Chair**

Lewis Foxhall, M.D., UT MD Anderson Cancer Center

James S. Goodwin, M.D., University of Texas Medical Branch

(Guest of Dr. Goodwin: Sharon Giordano, M.D., M.P.H.)

Sandi L. Pruitt, Ph.D., University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center

Via Phone:

Kelly Willis Merriman, M.P.H., Ph.D., C.T.R., UT MD Anderson Cancer Center, **ACTCR Vice-Chair**

Karen Torges, Cancer Alliance of Texas (CAT)

Maria Hoang Tran, M.P.H., C.T.R., Memorial Hermann Healthcare System

Deidre Watson, C.T.R., Oncology Network Consultants

Texas Cancer Registry/Environmental Epidemiology and Disease Registries Section Staff Present:

Heidi Bojes, Ph.D.

Ashley Dixon, M.P.H.

Velma Garza, C.T.R.

Beatriz Gutierrez, M.D., M.P.H., C.T.R.

Susan Perez, R.H.I.T., C.T.R.

Maria Vega, M.P.A.

I. Welcome—Michael Scheurer, Ph.D., M.P.H., ACTCR Chair

Dr. Scheurer called the meeting to order and attendees introduced themselves. He announced that Kelly Willis Merriman, M.P.H., Ph.D., C.T.R., was selected as the new Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect. Minutes from the October 16, 2016 meeting were approved as presented.

II. Texas Cancer Registry General Update—Discussion led by Heidi Bojes, Ph.D. and TCR Managers

Dr. Bojes introduced herself as the Acting Section Director for the Environmental Epidemiology and Disease Registries Section (EEDRS), and her role in leading and managing the TCR while the branch manager position remains vacant. She provided an update on the branch manager vacancy, indicating that applicants for the position were currently being screened.

The following briefly summarizes the topics Dr. Bojes discussed:



November calls for data—

Preliminary results for the November calls for data based on TCR's estimates show that 2013 data were 96.2% complete at the time of submission. Official certification results from the North American Association of Central Cancer Registries (NAACCR) and National Program of Cancer Registries (NPCR) are expected in May or June. Dr. Bojes also summarized some of the improvements made to the call for data process, such as improving the NAACCR Completeness Dashboard to utilize rates rather than counts, using linkages with Medicare, Texas Health Care Information Collection (THCIC) and death certificate data to improve the percentage of cases with race unknown as well as death certificate only cases.

Update on compliance—

Staff is working on facility reporting compliance for diagnosis years 2014 and 2015 data, and non-compliance letters have been sent out to facilities for both years. TCR has also worked to review data use agreements for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), however, the registry is still having issues with the Temple VA reporting cases. Options to remedy this include possibly contacting the cancer registrar at Scott & White Temple, as he/she would most likely know whom to contact at Temple VA. Additionally, Velma may make a visit to Temple VA for a face-to-face meeting to facilitate the reporting of their cases.

ACTION ITEM: TCR (Velma) to send Dr. Scheurer name of contact at the VA Hospital in Houston, so he may seek information regarding contacts at the Temple VA hospital.

TCR rules revisions related to health information exchange reporting—

TCR is currently working on changes to the TCR rules required by the passage of HB2641 during the 84th Texas Legislative session. The rule amendment will add the receipt of cancer data via a health information exchange (HIE) as an additional reporting method for the receipt of data. The changes will be considered at the August 2016 State Health Services Counsel Meeting, and are set to go into effect by March 2017.

ACTION ITEM: Members to provide feedback on proposed changes to TCR's rules.

July 2016 legislative report—

The [Texas Cancer Incidence Reporting Act](#) requires that the TCR submit an annual report to the legislature, and in the past, this requirement has been met by the [Cancer in Texas](#) monograph. However, DSHS requirements now prescribe a specific format for legislatively mandated reports; thus, TCR will need to prepare a separate report to meet these new requirements. The report is due to the legislature in July 2016.

ACTION ITEM: TCR to seek comments from members on legislative report—must have report drafted by 1st week of May.

Data quality evaluation (CDC audit)—

TCR will participate in an audit to assess the quality of the central registry data. This is a requirement of the CDC/NPCR Program Standards, performed by the CDC. Data being evaluated is Diagnosis Year 2013 only, and data quality will be evaluated for female breast, colon, rectum, rectosigmoid junction, lung, prostate, and corpus



uteri consolidated cancer cases. Audits must be conducted at least once every five years, and this audit is scheduled to take place April 5, 2016 – July 15, 2016 with the final report to TCR by July 22, 2016.

ACTION ITEM: TCR (Ashley) to contact CDC about reasoning behind cancer sites selected for audit.

Update on HPV strategic plan development and activities—

Last year the Texas Legislature passed a bill that required DSHS to develop an HPV strategic plan. TCR's current role regarding this initiative is Dr. Nogueira working to estimate costs attributable to vaccine-preventable cancers (such as HPV and cervical cancer), both direct and indirect costs, using Medicare data.

Along this topic, Dr. Foxhall brought up TCR's previous annual reports focused on a particular topic (e.g., tobacco and cancer, cervical cancer, colorectal cancer, prostate cancer, childhood and adolescent cancer). He wanted to know what TCR's future plans were for these types of reports, and suggested a few topics that TCR might want to consider in the near future due to current relevancy and activities: HPV annual report, colorectal screening, and childhood cancer.

ACTION ITEM: TCR (Dr. Nogueira) to develop a paragraph to include in an upcoming ACTCR email about plans regarding topic-focused reports, including timetables for preparation and review.

III. Member Requested Topics

Survivorship Module (Lewis Foxhall, M.D.)—

Dr. Foxhall discussed the Survivorship Module project he is working on with TCR in which Electronic Health Record (EHR) data would be utilized to automate survivorship care plans. Memorial Hermann (Maria Tran) and MD Anderson (Kelly Merriman) both expressed interest in participating/ volunteering to be a possible pilot site for the project. Along this topic, Dr. Scheurer wanted members to know that if you have a child-focused hospital within your organization, Passport for Care is available to you.

Cancer Genomics Project (Lewis Foxhall, M.D.)—

The goal is to identify high-risk patients, such as those with Hereditary Breast and Ovarian Cancer (HBOC) and Lynch Syndrome, and encourage them to seek genetic counseling and/or genetic testing. Most notable implementation of using cancer genomics for prevention in public health is the [Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Genetics Resource Center](#). Registry data can be useful in its application in 'cascade genetic testing/screening' in which the close relatives of an individual with a hereditary cancer are screened to determine if they are also affected with the same hereditary disorder. The TCR does already collect certain genetic biomarkers; therefore, it might be beneficial to target survivors of these types of disorders in a possible pilot project.

ACTION ITEM: TCR (Ashley working with Dr. Nogueira) to organize a conference call with members who expressed interest in a possible genomics project using registry data.



Comparative Effectiveness Research on Cancer in Texas (James S. Goodwin, M.D. and Sharon Giordano, M.D., M.P.H.)—

Comparative Effectiveness Research on Cancer in Texas (CERCIT) is a multidisciplinary consortium of investigators at the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB), MD Anderson Cancer Center, Rice University, and the Texas Department of State Health Services Texas Cancer Registry. CERCIT is funded by the Cancer Prevention Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT): <http://www.txcercit.org/>. The goal of the project is to create a statewide resource for outcomes and comparative effectiveness research in cancer for Texas.

Dr. Goodwin shared his portion of the project, looking into a frequently used screening test, colonoscopy, and its possible inappropriate use (overuse) in Medicare beneficiaries. Dr. Giordano also shared her part of the project, looking at diagnosis and treatment of cancer in Texas through linkages and surveys.

Use of treatment-related variables in the TCR for consortium projects (Sandi L. Pruitt, Ph.D.)—

Dr. Pruitt shared her project, Population-based Research Optimizing Screening through Personalized Regimens (PROSPR), a program with the scientific goal of supporting research to better understand how to improve the screening process (recruitment, screening, diagnosis, referral for treatment) for breast, colorectal, and cervical cancer. She raised some good points regarding TCR's incomplete treatment data (because TCR is not a SEER registry), and her concerns that some studies in the consortium may end up leaving Texas data out because of this incomplete treatment data.

ACTION ITEM: TCR to revisit process for and the registry's capacity to become a SEER registry.

IV. Member Updates/New Business—Michael Scheurer, Ph.D., M.P.H./Ashley Dixon, M.P.H./Members

Operating principles revision—

The group discussed revisions to the ACTCR Operating Principles to bring them more in line with the current functional practices of the committee, specific mention was made to Chair/Vice-Chair term lengths.

ACTION ITEM: Members to review and provide feedback on suggested changes to Operating Principles to be finalized/adopted at the next meeting.

Membership and meeting attendance—

(See accompanying current membership representation chart.)

ACTION ITEM: ACTCR Chair (Dr. Scheurer) to reach out to members with low attendance to see if they want to continue participating on committee.

ACTION ITEM: TCR (Ashley) to develop a document outlining membership suggestions discussed; Dr. Scheurer to reach out to members.

ACTION ITEM: Members to suggest potential new members and/or other types of entities for which we solicit for members.



Member updates—

Kelly Merriman, MD Anderson: MD Anderson is participating in the CDC pediatric cancer study.

No other members had any updates.

Next meeting—proposed for September 2016

ACTION ITEM: TCR (Ashley) to look into possibly utilizing a video conferencing feature for members to participate in future meetings remotely.

V. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:01 PM.